This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method to complete tasks over a network, comprising:

receiving, by a server computer, a request to perform a task for a plurality of ~~devices~~ computers over a network, wherein the task comprises ~~copying a file,~~ installing a software application[[,]] or updating a software application ~~or sending batch data~~;

performing said task using a multicast message communicated over said network, wherein the performance of said task is triggered by an event occurring on said server computer or said network;

updating a task status table by said server, wherein said task status table indicates whether said task has been completed for each of said plurality of computers;

receiving, by said server computer, a request to complete said task from ~~at least one device~~ a first computer, ~~wherein said request includes an identifier, an Internet Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet mask for said at least one device~~;

determining whether said task was completed for said ~~at least one device~~ first computer using [[a]] said task status table;

performing said task using a unicast message communicated over said network to said first computer in accordance with said determination; and

updating said task status table~~, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator~~ indicating whether said task has been completed for said ~~at least one device~~ first computer.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining whether said task was completed for said ~~at least one device~~ first computer comprises:

receiving ~~said~~ an identifier for said ~~at least one device~~ first computer;

searching said task status table using said identifier;

retrieving <u>a</u> ~~said~~ status indicator associated with said identifier; and

determining whether said task was completed for said ~~at least one device~~ <u>first computer</u> using said status indicator.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving said request to complete said task from <u>said</u> ~~at least one device~~ <u>first computer</u> comprises:

determining whether said ~~at least one device~~ <u>first computer</u> is in communication with said network; and

sending said request to complete said task from said ~~at least one device~~ <u>first computer</u>.

4.   (Currently Amended) A method to communicate information over a network, comprising:

receiving<u>, by a server computer,</u> a request to send information to a plurality of devices;

sending said information to said plurality of devices using a broadcast message<u>, wherein the sending of said information is triggered by an event occurring on said server computer or said network</u>;

<u>updating a task status table by said server, wherein said task status table indicates whether said information has been received by each of said plurality of devices;</u>

receiving<u>, by said server computer,</u> a request for said information from at least one device~~, wherein said request includes an identifier, an Internet Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet mask for said at least one device~~;

determining whether said at least one device received said information using [[a]] <u>said</u> task status table;

sending said information to said at least one device using a unicast message in accordance with said determination; and

updating said task status table~~, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator~~ indicating whether said information has been received by said at least one device.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said determining whether said at least

one device received said information comprises:

        receiving an ~~said~~ identifier for said at least one device;

        searching said task status table using said identifier;

        retrieving a ~~said~~ status indicator associated with said identifier; and

        determining whether said at least one device received said information using said status

indicator.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said receiving said request for said information

comprises:

        connecting said at least one device to said network; and

        sending said request for said information from said at least one device.

7.   (Currently Amended) A method to complete tasks over a network, comprising:

        receiving, by a server computer, a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a

                network, wherein the task comprises ~~copying a file,~~ installing a software

                application[[,]] or updating a software application ~~or sending batch data~~;

        performing said task using a multicast message communicated over said network, wherein

                the performance of said task is triggered by an event occurring on said server

                computer or said network;

        receiving, by said server computer, a request to complete said task from at least one device

                and an identifier for said at least one device ~~, wherein said request includes an

                identifier, an Internet Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet mask for said at least

                one device~~;

        searching a task status table using said identifier;

        retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier;

determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status

indicator;

performing said task using a unicast message communicated over said network to said at

least one device in accordance with said determination; and

updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises said status indicator

indicating whether said task has been completed for said at least one device.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein said receiving a request to complete said task from

at least one device comprises:

connecting said at least one device to said network; and

sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

9.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result

in receiving, by a server computer, a request to perform a task for a plurality of

devices over a network, performing said task using a multicast message

communicated over said network, wherein the performance of said task is triggered

by an event occurring on said server computer or said network, receiving, by said

server computer, a request to complete said task from at least one device, ~~wherein~~

~~said request includes an identifier, an Internet Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet~~

~~mask for said at least one device,~~ determining whether said task was completed for

said at least one device using a task status table, performing said task using a unicast

message communicated over said network to said at least one device in accordance

with said determination, and updating said task status table, wherein said task status

table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed for

said at least one device, wherein the task comprises ~~copying a file,~~ installing a

software application[[,]] or updating a software application ~~or sending batch data~~.

10.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 9, wherein the stored instructions, when executed

by a processor, further result in determining whether said task was completed for said at least one

device by receiving ~~said~~ an identifier for said at least one device, searching said task status table

using said identifier, retrieving said status indicator associated with said identifier, and determining

whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator.

11.   (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a

processor, further result in receiving said request to complete said task from at least one device by

determining whether said at least one device is in communication with said network, and sending

said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

12.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result

in receiving, by a server computer, a request to send information to a plurality of

devices, sending said information to said plurality of devices using a broadcast

message, wherein the sending of said information is triggered by an event occurring

on said server computer or said network, receiving a request for said information

from at least one device, ~~wherein said request includes an identifier, an Internet~~

~~Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet mask for said at least one device,~~ determining

whether said at least one device received said information using a task status table,

sending said information to said at least one device using a unicast message in

accordance with said determination, and updating said task status table, wherein said

task status table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said information has been received by said at least one device.

13.   (Currently Amended) The article of claim 12, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in determining whether said at least one device received said information by receiving an ~~said~~ identifier for said at least one device, searching said task status table using said identifier, retrieving said status indicator associated with said identifier, and determining whether said at least one device received said information using said status indicator.

14.   (Original) The article of claim 12, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving a request for said information by connecting said at least one device to said network, and sending said request for said information from said at least one device.

15.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a storage medium;

said storage medium including stored instructions that, when executed by a processor, result in receiving, by a server computer, a request to perform a task for a plurality of devices over a network, performing said task using a multicast message communicated over said network, wherein the performance of said task is triggered by an event occurring on said server computer or said network, receiving, by said server computer, a request to complete said task from at least one device, ~~wherein said request includes an Internet Protocol (IP) address, an IP subnet mask and an identifier for said at least one device~~, searching a task status table using an ~~said~~ identifier, retrieving a status indicator associated with said identifier, determining whether said task was completed for said at least one device using said status indicator, performing said task using a unicast message communicated over said network to said at least one device in accordance with said determination, and

updating said task status table, wherein said task status table comprises said status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed for said at least one device, wherein the task comprises ~~copying a file,~~ installing a software application[[,]] or updating a software application ~~or sending batch data~~.

16. (Original) The article of claim 15, wherein the stored instructions, when executed by a processor, further result in receiving said request to complete said task from at least one device by connecting said at least one device to said network, and sending said request to complete said task from said at least one device.

17. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a server, said server having a task handler module to manage completion of a task for a plurality of target devices using a multicast message and update a task status table, wherein said task status table comprises a status indicator indicating whether said task has been completed, wherein the task comprises ~~copying a file,~~ installing a software application[[,]] or updating a software application ~~or sending batch data~~, and wherein performance of said task is triggered by an event occurring on said server;

a plurality of target devices, said plurality of target devices each having a task finisher module to request completion of said task if uncompleted, wherein the task finisher module is configured to install or update applications, ~~wherein said request includes an identifier, an Internet Protocol (IP) address and an IP subnet mask for said at least one device~~; and

a network to communicate information between said server and said plurality of target devices to complete said task.

18.   (Original) The system of claim 17, further comprising a task handler module for each of said

plurality of target devices to complete said task for said plurality of target devices.